

Message Text

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EXDIS MILITARY ADDRESSES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOL RPT TEHRAN 3653 SENT ACTION SECSTATE DTD 18 APR 78

QUOTE: S E C R E T TEHRAN 03653

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO DEPT. OF DEFENSE, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF,
AND USCINCEUR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, IR, US
SUBJ: U.S. ASSISTANCE TO IRANIAN MILITARY COMMAND, CONTROL
AND COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

1. U.S. DEPUTY CINCEUR GENERAL HUYSER AND I, ACCCOMPANIED BY
CARMISH GENERAL GAST, HAD LENGTHY AUDIENCE WITH SHAH APRIL 16.
SHAH WAS ACCCOMPANIED BY CHIEF SCS GENERAL AZHARI. BASIC SUBJECT
OF AUDIENCE WAS U.S. ASSISTANCE TO IRANIAN MILITARY COMMAND,
CONTROL AND COMMUNICATIONS PLAN.

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2. THIS AUDIENCE WAS CENTERPIECE OF DISCUSSIONS WHICH GENERAL
HUYSER HAS BEEN HAVING THESE PAST FEW DAYS WITH SENIOR IRANIAN
MILITARY WORKING WITH THIS PROJECT. HE HAS HANDLED THESE
DISCUSSION SKILLFULLY AND THE IRANIANS HAVE BEEN FORTHRIGHTLY
COOPERATIVE. SINCE THIS IS A SUBJECT OF GREAT POLITICAL
SENSITIVITY AND FRAUGHT WITH INTER-SERVICE AS WELL AS INTER-
PERSONAL RIVALRIES AMONG THE MILITARY, WE HAVE BEEN

PLEASED THAT IT HAS THUS FAR PROCEEDED SMOOTHLY. THERE ARE STILL MANY POTENTIAL PITFALLS, BUT IT IS OFF TO A GOOD START.

3. I WILL LEAVE DETAILED REPORTING ON THE SUBJECT TO GENERAL HUYSER, WHO WILL HANDLE IT IN MILITARY CHANNELS. HOWEVER, THERE ARE SOME POLITICAL DIMENSIONS TO THE AUDIENCE WITH THE SHAH WHICH I WISH TO RECORD IN THIS MESSAGE. THESE BASICALLY DERIVE FROM THE SHAH'S STATEMENT THAT HE REALIZES THE SIZE OF HIS ARMED FORCES HAS NOW GROWN TO SUCH A DEGREE THAT HE CAN NOT RPT NOT CONTROL THEM ALL FROM A SINGLE SWITCH. HE ALSO STATED THAT, FOR REASONS OF SECURITY, HE HAS UNTIL NOW CARRIED MOST OF HIS PLANS IN HIS HEAD AND HAS REFRAINED FROM COMMITTING THEM TO PAPER. HE SAID HE REALIZES THIS MAY ALSO HAVE TO CHANGE. IN SUM, HE IS PREPARED TO DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO A PRACTICAL DEGREE.

4. THE CHANGES WHICH THE SHAH IS PREPARED TO MAKE, AND ON WHICH GENERAL HUYSER WILL UNDERTAKE TO ADVISE, WILL, IN ANY EVENT, LEAVE THE COMMAND FUNCTION CLEARLY IN THE SHAH'S HANDS. HOWEVER, HE WILL SPREAD THE CONTROL FUNCTION THROUGH FOUR REGIONAL COMMANDS, WHICH WILL HAVE DEFINED TERRITORIAL LIMITS AND WILL BE DESIGNATED AS "ARMIES". THESE COMMANDS WILL BE HEADED BY GROUND FORCE OFFICERS. (GEN. AZHARI LATER INDICATED HE WISHED CALL THEM "CORPS".)

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5. THE AIR FORCE AND NAVY WILL REMAIN INTACT AND BE DESIGNATED AS SUPPORTING FORCES, WHOSE RESOURCES WOULD BE ALLOCATED TO THE NEW REGIONAL COMMANDS IN A MILITARY EMERGENCY IN ACCORDANCE WITH DECISIONS TO BE MADE BY THE SHAH AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF. HOWEVER, THE HELICOPTER FORCE WOULD BE BROKEN UP AND ELEMENTS WOULD BE ORGANICALLY ASSIGNED TO THE REGIONAL COMMANDS. (IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH GEN. AZHARI, THIS WAS MODIFIED TO "ATTACHMENT" RATHER THAN "ASSIGNMENT".

6. GENERAL HUYSER ALSO PRESSED THE SHAH TO ASSIGN MORE NAVY AND AIR FORCE PERSONNEL TO THE SUPREME COMMANDER'S STAFF IN ORDER TO DEVELOP MORE JOINT PLANNING FOR THE INTER-OPERATION OF COMBINED ARMS. THE SHAH WAS SOMEWHAT NON-COMMITTAL ON THIS POINT.

7. COMMENT: THESE BASIC DECISIONS, WHICH WILL GIVE THE ARMY ALL FOUR SENIOR REGIONAL COMMANDS AS WELL AS CONTINUED DOMINANCE OF THE SCS, BUT WILL LEAVE THE NAVY AND AIR FORCE COMMANDS INTACT, WILL PROBABLY PRODUCE THE GREATEST GENERAL MEASURE OF SATISFACTION FOR ALL CONCERNED. THE DESIGNATION OF THE FOUR REGIONAL COMMANDERS WILL OBVIOUSLY BE DONE VERY CAREFULLY. THEY WILL

HAVE MORE CONCENTRATED LOCAL AUTHORITY OVER BROAD AREAS OF THE COUNTRY THAN ANY OFFICERS IN RECENT HISTORY.
WHETHER THERE WILL BE A SIGNIFICANT INTRODUCTION OF NAVY AND AIR FORCE OFFICERS TO EFFECTIVE POSITIONS ON THE SCS AND WHETHER GENUINE WAR PLANS WILL ACTUALLY BE COMMITTED TO PAPER REMAIN TO BE SEEN. GENERAL HUYSER HAS RECOMMENDED THAT THE ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROJECT BE DONE "FROM THE BOTTOM UP" WITH THE SOUTHWEST REGION CHOSEN AS THE PROTOTYPE FOR DEVELOPMENT. THE SHAH HAS ACCEPTED THIS RECOMMENDATION. IF THESE ARRANGEMENTS WORK OUT AS PLANNED, THERE SHOULD BE SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN IRAN'S CAPABILITY TO MAKE EFFECTIVE USE OF THE SOPHISTICATED MILITARY EQUIPMENT IT IS IN THE PROCESS OF ACQUIRING. SULLIVAN UNQUOTE

CHRISTOPHER

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